ingress and ground water Recharge in Bhadrak, Kendrapara and Puri districts of Orissa.

(c) No specific funds have been allocated for the purpose of taking remedial steps and preventive measures for salinity ingress.

Clearance of irrigation projects from Himachal Pradesh

†1456. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that project reports of Rs. 9 crore 59 lakh and 81 thousand relating to irrigation projects and installation of tube wells for irrigation of 4181 hectare of land under Bhavarana block in Distt. Kangra, Sorba Ghat Tehsil in Distt. Mandi and Nalagarh Tehsil in Distt. Solan were forwarded by Government of Himachal Pradesh vide its letter dated 28th July 2001 for clearance;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon and the reasons for its pendency so far; and

(c) by when a final decision would be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) All the three projects submitted by the Government of Himachal Pradesh vide its letter dated 28th July 2001 have already been included under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme by the Ministry of Water Resources.

Indo-Bhutan Joint River Commission

1457. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up an Indo-Bhutan Joint River Commission to prevent floods in the northern part of West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the progress made so far and the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) In

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

order to have cooperation in the Flood Management, the first meeting of the technical delegations of India and Bhutan was held on 2nd August, 2004 at Delhi. During the meeting, it was agreed to recommend constitution of Joint Group of Experts on Flood Management, comprising officials and experts of Government of India and Bhutan to discuss and assess the probable causes and effects of the recurring floods and erosion in the southern foothills of Bhutan and adjoining plains in India (which includes northern part of West Bengal).

Flood control in lower Assam and North Bihar

1458. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether intense flooding in Nepal and Bhutan and release of excess water from their dams inundated all low lying areas in lower Assam and North Bihar;

(b) if so, the remedial measures proposed to control such nature's fury causing loss of property worth crores of rupees every year, besides heavy death toll in the two States; and

(c) whether Nepal and Bhutan have been briefed in the matter and if so, their reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The rivers flowing through Nepal and entering into North Bihar and those flowing from Bhutan and entering into Assam and North Bengal, do not have any existing storage reservoirs/dams for flood control in Nepal and Bhutan. As such the question of flooding lower Assam and North Bihar by these rivers by release of excess water from dams does not arise. The frequent flooding in these areas is caused during monsoon because of heavy rainfall in the catchment of these rivers both in India and in Nepal and Bhutan. However, during July 2004, the bursting of a natural lake which was formed in September 2003 near village Ladong in Bhutan resulted in rise of water level in river Beki by 20 cm. in lower Assam.

(b) Flood Management being a State subject, investigations, planning and implementation of flood management schemes are within the purview of the respective State Governments. The Centre renders assistance that are technical, catalytical and promotional in nature.